

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the search and for finding allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4 and 6-8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from claim 4 (which the Examiner indicated to be allowable). Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Dependent claims 2-3, 6, and 9-22 each depend from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations set forth in each of these dependent claims.

Claim 33 is a new independent claim that combines the limitations from claim 1 and claim 7 (which the Examiner indicated to be allowable). Accordingly, claim 33 is believed to be allowable. New dependent claims 34-50 each depend from claim 33, and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations set forth in each of these dependent claims.

Incidentally, the limitations of these new dependent claims 34-50 have already been presented and Examined in connection with previous dependent claims 8, 2, 3, and 9-22, respectively.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 2 have been objected to because of alleged informalities as set forth in the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to overcome the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 1 and 2 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection - Bednorz

Claims 1-3, 9-11 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0111256 to Bednorz et al. (hereinafter "Bednorz").

As discussed above in the section Allowable Subject Matter, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations from claim 4, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-3, 9-11, and 22 each depend from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations set forth in each of these dependent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 9-11 and 22.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Bednorz, Kijima

Claims 12-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bednorz in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,811,181 issued to Kijima et al.

Claims 12-19 each depend from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations set forth in each of these dependent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 12-19.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Bednorz, Kaufman

Claims 20-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bednorz in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,099,141 issued to Kaufman et al.

Claims 20-21 each depend from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations set forth in each of these dependent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 20-21.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the cited art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

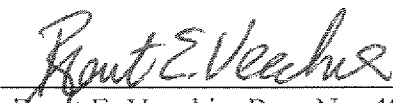
Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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